

D-6839

**CONFIDENTIAL  
FILE**

D. 6839

*Anti-Japanese Literature.*

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE  
S. B. REGISTRY  
No. S. B. D. 6839  
Date 15-10-35

**SECRET**

CONFIDENTIAL

October 14,

35.

DC (S/B)  
Fils

Dear Sir John,

With regard to your note of October 12, 1935 I send attached hereto a report from the Special Branch on the subject of Police action in regard to book stores in the Settlement selling anti-Japanese and other literature likely to cause a breach of the peace or political complications.

In the middle of this year, after discussion with the Secretary-General, it was decided to take action against all newspapers, chiefly of the mosquito variety, not registered with the Chinese Authorities. This type of paper was publishing with impunity inflammatory articles of an anti-Japanese nature, anti-Government nature, and so-forth. Action taken was in every case put before the competent court and future action based on the result of such prosecution.

I think it improbable that there is any great extortion by Chinese members of the Municipal Police engaged on this work. There is no doubt considerable difficulty to be encountered if such efforts at extortion are made in that it is well known that agents of the Japanese and Chinese Authorities, and agents of the Bureau of Education

At request of  
City Govt.  
WB

are themselves making investigations all the time and it is very improbable shopkeepers will pay the Municipal Police for protection which the Municipal Police would be unable to afford with any certainty.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd) K. M. Bourne.

Sir John Brennan, K.C.M.G.,  
H. B. M. Consul-General,  
Shanghai.

J.M.B.

15 OCT. 1935

*[Signature]* 18/10/35



S.S. Special Branch *////*

October 14, 35.

Police action re book stores in Settlement.

Communication from H.B.M. Consul-General re.

*//*  
and

D.S.I. Moore

Sir,

With reference to the attached communication dated October 12, 1935, from H.B.M. Consul-General, and the instructions of the D.C. (Special Branch) appended thereon, submitted herewith is a report on the matter in question.

The efforts of the Municipal Police to prevent the sale in the Settlement of literature hostile to the Chinese Government are supplemented by the Bureau of Public Safety and the local representative of the Ministry of Education whose officers make frequent visits to local book stores.

When agents of the Municipal Police discover improper books, the objectionable parts are translated and submitted to the Legal Department before any action is taken.

When representatives of the extra-Settlement bureaux discover objectionable books or magazines on sale, they apply direct to the Shanghai Special District Court for warrants and co-operate with the Municipal Police when these instruments are being executed.

There is also good reason to believe that a check is being kept on literature offered for sale in the Settlement by agents of the Japanese Authorities.

In view of the activities of the agents of the Japanese and Chinese Authorities, there is reason to believe that relaxation of the efforts of the Municipal Police would not bring any relief to the book stores. On the other hand, it would leave the Municipal Police open to charges of inefficiency and would lend colour to the charges already being made about extortion.

The examination of book stores is now undertaken by

two Chinese detectives attached to S.5, and their work is supervised by clerks from the same section. Both the detectives and clerks of S.5 pose as potential customers when visiting stores, and a check is maintained on their work by agents and detectives of S.1 who are constantly on the look out for evidence of the existence of anti-Government and anti-Foreign agitation. Any arrangement which any member of the Municipal Police might make to allow the sale of improper books would moreover be likely to break down in view of the inquiries being made by the Public Safety Bureau or other interested authorities. The keepers of book stores are all intelligent people who realize that the Printers and Publishers Association to which they invariably belong, is a very influential body. It is therefore very unlikely that they would tamely agree to the payments of extortions which did not bring them any benefit.

In executing the orders of the Acting Commissioner of Police regarding the registration of newspapers and periodicals Foreign members of the staff of the Special Branch frequently came into contact with book store keepers, and so far no complaints have been made to them.

Since the "New Life Weekly" Incident, the measures to prevent the circulation in the Settlement of anti-Japanese literature have been carried out more consistently and vigorously than previously, and six persons have been successfully prosecuted.

There is no doubt that the members of the Printing and Publishing Trade have for many years been making considerable profits by catering to the spirit of hostility

to Japan and other Foreign countries, and lecherous inclinations of the Chinese public. Sufferance of the continuance of this state of affairs has proved a lucrative source of profit to some employees of the Ministry of Education.

It came to light in September 1930 that one Chen Te-tseng (陳德生) who was local representative of the Ministry of Education from April 1929 to September 1930, had during that period amassed a fortune of \$300,000. Chen was found guilty of malfeasance in office and had to resign various appointments which he held concurrently.

The efforts of the Municipal Police have always limited the opportunities of the employees of the Department of Education to make money by venial practices in the Settlement, and in recent months have undoubtedly been more successful in this respect than hitherto. The statement of the Minister of Education about extortion by the Municipal Police is probably based on reports received from some of the employees of his Department who consider that their personal interests will be seriously affected if the present measures taken by the Municipal Police are maintained.

D. S. I.

D. C. (Special Branch).

*Acting C.I.*  
*The Court dismissed cases against some shopkeepers who were charged in September with selling anti-Japanese literature. It is only in cases which are apparently more serious than these, that prosecutions will be brought in future. The position, however, may be changed if the Japanese complain again.*  
 11/10/35 (S.S.) C.I. (S.S.)

**SECRET**

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.....

S.5 Special Branch.....*S/4164*,

REPORT

Date October 14, 1935.

Subject..... Police action re book stores in Settlement.

..... Communication from H.B.M. Consul-General re.

Made *by*..... and..... Forwarded by..... D.S.I. Moore

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SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.....

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.....Station,

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Subject.....

(2)

Made by.....Forwarded by.....

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*D. S. I.*

D. S. I.

D. C. (Special Branch).

*A/b. f.*

*Information. Cases against some Chinese shopkeepers who were charged during September for selling anti-Japanese literature were dismissed. It is only in cases more serious than these that prosecutions will be instituted in future. The situation, however, may change if the Japanese complain again.*

*W. S. I. D. C. (Sp. Br.) 14 OCT. 1931*

*See file  
D. 2045*



BRITISH CONSULATE-GENERAL,

P.O. BOX 289.

SHANGHAI.

Personal and confidential

October 12th, 1935.

Dear Bourne,

The Chinese Minister of Education has recently approached me indirectly and very confidentially on the following matter. It is stated that under Japanese pressure the municipal police are undertaking the investigation of publications by Chinese publishing companies to see if they contain anti-Japanese propaganda. I am assured that the Chinese Government have already taken strict measures in the way of censorship and would deal with such cases themselves. The Minister asks me unofficially therefore for my good offices to obtain a relaxation by the municipal police of their activities in this direction. It is also alleged that some members of the police are making the investigation an opportunity for extortion.

With regard to the latter charge the answer of course is that if any evidence is produced you will

Major K.M. Bourne, M.C.,  
Acting Commissioner of Police,  
Shanghai Municipal Council,  
SHANGHAI.

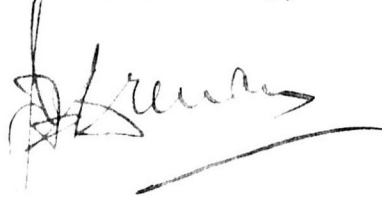
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2.

be only too glad to take the necessary action. As, however, such evidence never is produced it is difficult to see what can be done.

As to the main contention I shall be grateful if you can let me know confidentially, and for my personal information only, what the position is.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Edgar Hoover", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.